

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
TRANSIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday September 20, 2016
Maricopa Association of Governments; Saguaro Room;
302 N. 1st Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

*ADOT: Mike Normand	*Paradise Valley: Jeremy Knapp
Avondale: Kristen Taylor, Vice Chair	Peoria: Stuart Kent
#Buckeye: Sean Banda for Andrea Marquez	Phoenix: Maria Hyatt, Chair
Chandler: Jason Crampton for RJ Zeder	*Queen Creek: Mohamed Youssef
El Mirage: Jose Macias	Scottsdale: Gregory P. Davies for
Gila River Indian Community, Gregory	Madeline Clemann
McDowell	Surprise: Martín Lucero
*Gilbert: Kristin Myers	Tempe: Mike Nevarez for Robert Yabes
Glendale: Kevin Link for Debbie Albert	*Tolleson: Vacant
*Goodyear: Christine McMurdy	Valley Metro: Abhishek Dayal
*Maricopa: David Maestas	#Youngtown: Grant Anderson
Maricopa County DOT: Reed Kempton	
#Mesa: Ed Jones for Jodi Sorrell	

* Members neither present nor represented
by proxy.

Participated (or attended) by teleconference
+ Participated (or attended) by videoconference

OTHERS PRESENT

Audra Koester Thomas, MAG
Marc Pearsall, MAG
Alice Chen, MAG
Dean Giles, MAG

Jeff Martin, Chandler/Mesa
Lisa Golden, Maricopa County DPH
Joe Bowar, Phoenix
Stephanie Child, Phoenix
Ken Kessler, Phoenix
Wendy Miller, Phoenix
Vivian Ybanez, Phoenix
Chase Walman, Tempe
Randy Overmyer, CivTech

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Chair Maria Hyatt. She welcomed everyone in attendance and announced that a quorum was present. She noted that a few members were joining the meeting by teleconference: Sean Banda of Buckeye, Ed Jones of Mesa, and Grant Anderson of Youngtown. She asked if there were any public comment cards, and there being none, proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

2. Approval of Draft June 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Chair Hyatt inquired if there were any comments or corrections to the Draft June 21, 2016 Minutes. Hearing no comments, she called for a motion to approve the Draft June 21, 2016 Minutes. Gregory Davies of Scottsdale moved to approve the motion, Jose Macias of El Mirage seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Chair Hyatt then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

3. Call to the Audience

Chair Hyatt stated that she had not received any request to speak cards from the audience and moved onto the next item on the agenda.

4. Transit Planning Report

Chair Hyatt introduced the MAG Transit Planning Project Manager, Audra Koester Thomas. Ms. Koester Thomas then proceeded to brief the Committee with the Transit Planning Report. She explained that in September, the FTA announced selections for its Bus and Bus Facilities Grant Program that would help provide more modern, reliable bus service for transit riders across the country. Sixty one projects in 41 states, the Virgin Islands, and Indian Country would receive a share of nearly \$211 million to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase transit buses and related equipment, and construct bus-related facilities. Selected projects include those that replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment as well as projects to purchase, rehabilitate and construct bus-related facilities, such as buildings for bus storage and maintenance. The regionally-supported application by Phoenix was not awarded.

She also stated that earlier in July, U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx announced nearly \$500 million would be made available for transportation projects across the country in the eighth round of the highly successful and competitive Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. No awards were made to Arizona communities, including the two MAG-region submittals: Town of Guadalupe road improvements nor the Valley Metro/City of Phoenix dedicated bus ramps.

Ms. Koester Thomas then announced upcoming calendar items: On Wednesday September 28, there would be a 50th Street Station announcement in East Phoenix, followed by the Saturday, October 15th Gilbert Road Extension groundbreaking ceremony in Mesa. She noted upcoming webinar and training opportunities: the National Transit Institute (NTI) would be hosting a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) training course November 1-2 at Valley Metro, which is free to governmental agencies.

She gave selection and contract updates on the MAG Regional Transit Framework Study Update and MAG Regional Commuter Rail System Study Update. She also welcomed member Greg McDowell of Gila River Indian Community, and advised of the two new transit routes service the Gila River Communities of Sacaton and Bapchule. She then concluded her report.

Chair Hyatt thanked Ms. Koester Thomas and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing no further comments, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

5. Peoria Park-and-Ride Update

Chair Hyatt explained that the Peoria Park-and-Ride Update agenda item was requested to be tabled until a future Transit Committee meeting. She thanked Valley Metro and Peoria staff for the preparation and stated that the Committee would look forward to hearing the item at a future date. She proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

6. Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Draft Program of Projects

Chair Hyatt invited Alice Chen of MAG to present the item. Ms. Chen explained that she would review the draft FY 2017 and FY 2018 Federal Transit Administration Program of Projects (POP). She noted that the POP was the list of projects in MAG's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) proposed to be funded from the area's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 and Section 5339 programs.

Ms. Chen added that MAG's public involvement process for developing the TIP satisfied federally-required public participation requirements for the transit POP. She stated that the POP would be continually updated during the TIP development process and posted for public comment on the Transit Committee website, which was open to the general public for review. She then referred the members to attachments #2A and #2B for additional information. Ms. Chen also noted that MAG would begin updating the TIP for FY18-22 in September. Chair Hyatt then asked for a brief clarification.

Chair Hyatt again thanked Ms. Chen asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

7. Transit Project Data for 2017 Conformity Analysis

Chair Hyatt invited Dean Giles of MAG to present the item. He then referred to the attachment and the presentation. He explained that the Maricopa Association of Governments was underway on developing the new FY 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He noted that in the fall of 2016, MAG would request transit project data for inclusion in the transportation model for transportation conformity purposes. He further noted that a project data conformity analysis would be conducted on the new TIP and RTP in 2017.

He then advised with a presentation overview of how transportation and air quality were linked. The Clean Air Act required transportation plans, programs, and projects to conform to the purpose of the air quality plans. This would ensure that transportation activities do not cause violations of the air quality standards. He also noted that the air quality plans set motor vehicle emissions budgets. He then explained the conformity requirements. The TIP and RTP must pass the conformity emissions tests, using the latest planning assumptions and emissions models. He noted that there was timely implementation of transportation control measures.

Mr. Giles concluded by reviewing the TIP, RTP, and Conformity Analysis tentative schedules. These were key dates from the new Transportation Programming Guidebook. He noted that on December 5, 2016 MAG would begin the Transit Life Cycle Program (TLCP) project data collection, then on January 6, 2017 the TLCP project data collection would be due. On April 26, 2017, the Draft TIP, RTP, and Conformity Analysis would be completed, with MAG Regional Council approval of the entire process on June 28, 2017. He completed his presentation and overview.

Chair Hyatt again thanked Mr. Giles and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

8. Semiannual Status Report on Federal Grant Activity

Chair Hyatt invited Ken Kessler of the City of Phoenix to present the item. He reminded that the City of Phoenix was the Designated Recipient (DR) for federal transit funds for the Phoenix-Mesa Urbanized Area (UZA). Among other responsibilities, the City of Phoenix manages federal transit grants for the region and in support of MAG's role of coordinating regional transit planning and programming activities, the City of Phoenix provides semiannual updates to the Transit Committee on the status of existing federal grants.

Chair Hyatt and Ms. Koester Thomas noted that they wished to begin a Committee conversation about the current status of unspent federal grants in the region. They noted that re-prioritizing these funds should become a priority, as over \$218 million in awarded funding sits in open grants for the region. Of this, approximately \$33.8 million are in grant that are at least 6 years old. The FTA had been reminding agencies that inactive grants may be closed. Brief comments from Mr. Kessler, Chair Hyatt, Ms. Koester Thomas and Mr. Lucero were heard regarding formula funds, the federal process and the importance of bus service.

Chair Hyatt then suggested that MAG host a future committee meeting in November or January 2017 on a plan to address these unspent funds. She added that we may perhaps reprogram or turn-back those unspent funds if the community is not ready to utilize them, or the community could advocate for a new schedule where those funds could be implemented for its intended project. Ken Kessler stated that his team would create and distribute a master list of all the grants that so that the each community can work with City of Phoenix and MAG on the best way forward.

Chair Hyatt thanked Mr. Kessler and the members for their input and asked if there were further questions or comments regarding the agenda item. Hearing none, she proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

9 . Request for Future Agenda Items

Chair Hyatt asked the members of the Committee if there were any issues or topics that they would like added as future agenda items.

Mr. Lucero of Surprise asked if the committee may have a future presentation from Valley Metro on the status of FTA funding in the Valley. Mr. Dayal of Valley Metro replied that he would be happy to give an update to the committee on FTA rail capital and transit program funding at a future date.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Hyatt proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

10. Next Meeting Date

Chair Hyatt thanked those in attendance and announced that the next scheduled meeting of the MAG Transit Committee would be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the MAG Office, Saguaro Room. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.